

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

2:10-CR-520 JCM (RJJ)

Plaintiff,

V.

SHAWN RICE,

Defendant.

ORDER

14 Presently before the court are the report and recommendation of Magistrate Judge Johnston.
15 (Doc. #31).

16 Defendant filed a “motion to dismiss the pleadings and indictment issued by the government
17 with prejudice for lack of standing and no real party in interest” on June 14, 2012. (Doc. #27). The
18 motion asserts that the United States Attorney lacks jurisdiction over defendant because Congress
19 has only conferred legal standing on the “United States,” but defendant was charged in this case by
20 the “United States of America.” (Doc. #27).

21 The magistrate judge recommends that the court deny defendant's motion. First, the
22 magistrate judge notes that the deadline for filing pretrial motions has "long since passed." (Doc.
23 #31). The deadline for pretrial motions in this case was February 18, 2012. (Doc. #9). Thus,
24 defendant's June 14, 2012, filing was well-after the pretrial motion deadline, and the magistrate
25 judge recommends that the court deny defendant's motion as untimely. Second, the magistrate judge
26 states that defendant's distinction between the "United States of America" and "United States" is
27 entirely frivolous and without legal basis. Accordingly, the magistrate judge also recommends that

1 this motion be denied on the merits. (Doc. #31).

2 The court agrees that defendant's motion to dismiss (doc. #27) should be dismissed as
3 untimely and without merit. Accordingly, the magistrate judge's report and recommendation are
4 affirmed, and defendant's "motion to dismiss the pleadings and indictment issued by the government
5 with prejudice for lack of standing and no real party in interest" (doc. #27) is denied.

6 In addition to the motion to dismiss addressed in the report and recommendation, defendant
7 filed five more motions to dismiss. (Docs. #25, #33, #38, #40 and #41). Similar to the motion to
8 dismiss discussed above, these motions to dismiss are untimely because the deadline for filing
9 pretrial motions was February 18, 2012. (Doc. #9). Further, the legal arguments in these motions
10 are not meritorious. Therefore, the motions also should be dismissed on the merits. Finally, at
11 calendar call on July 18, 2012, defendant submitted two documents to the court for *in camera*
12 review.

13 **1. Notice of CIPA discovery fraud and motion for dismissal (doc. #25)**

14 Defendant moves to dismiss the indictment due to an alleged discovery violation. (Doc.
15 #25). Defendant claims to have an offer of proof "establishing that the government has violated the
16 Classified Information Procedures Act." (Doc. #25). Thus, defendant moves for dismissal of the
17 indictment or, alternatively, disclosure of classified information in the possession of the government
18 as it relates to defendant.

19 The United States filed an opposition, noting: (1) that defendant has not provided any time
20 or subject matter parameters in his motion, so it is impossible for the government to adequately
21 respond to defendant's assertions, and (2) that defendant failed to include the offer of proof in his
22 motion and, therefore, defendant's motion appears to be a "fishing expedition" with speculative and
23 unsubstantiated assertions. (Doc. #28). Finally, the government asserts that it asked the F.B.I. case
24 agent if any classified information exists in this case, and the agent stated that "no classified
25 information emanated out of this investigation." (Doc. #28).

26 The court first notes that defendant's motion is untimely. As discussed above, the deadline
27 for pretrial motions in this case was February 18, 2012, and defendant filed the instant motion well-

28

1 past this deadline. (Docs. #9 and #25). The court further denies defendant's motion on the merits.
2 Defendant has not included the offer of proof in his motion, and has not identified with any
3 specificity the alleged discovery violations. (Doc. #25). Therefore, it is impossible to weigh the
4 merits of defendant's assertions, and the motion appears to be nothing more than a "fishing
5 expedition," as identified by the government.

6 **2. Motion to dismiss indictment due to Speedy Trial Act violation (doc. #33)**

7 Defendant moves to dismiss the indictment due to an alleged Speedy Trial Act violation.
8 (Doc. #33). The United States filed a response (doc. #44), to which defendant filed a reply (doc.
9 #55).

10 "The defendant has the burden of proving that the delay meets the criteria for dismissal."
11 *United States v. Medina*, 524 F.3d 974, 981 (9th Cir. 2008); *see also* 18 U.S.C. § 3162(a)(2) ("The
12 defendant shall have the burden of proof of supporting" a motion to dismiss for a Speedy Trial Act
13 violation). However, the government has the burden of going forward with any exclusion under 18
14 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(3). *See* 18 U.S.C. § 3162(a)(2).

15 Defendant argues that 82 non-excludable days have passed since he made his initial
16 appearance at the trial court. Therefore, this court is obligated to dismiss the indictment pursuant
17 to 18 U.S.C. § 3162(a)(2). (Doc. #33). Specifically, defendant points to two time periods which
18 were not covered by a continuance: March 6, 2009, to May 7, 2009, and December 22, 2011, to
19 February 16, 2012. According to defendant's calculations, these time periods include 82 non-
20 excludable days, and the indictment should be dismissed.

21 The court first notes that this motion does not appear to be appropriately filed in this case.
22 Defendant's Speedy Trial Act calculations involve alleged violations in *United States v. Davis, et.*
23 *al.*, case number 2:09-cr-78-JCM-RJJ, and not violations in the instant case. The court previously
24 consolidated these cases for trial. (2:09-cr-78, Doc. #248). However, the court finds that this motion
25 should be denied on its merits, and does not address whether it was appropriately filed in this case.

26 Defendant was originally scheduled to go to trial on the money laundering charges on June
27 21, 2010. (2:09-cr-78, Doc. #127). However, defendant subsequently failed to appear for two
28

1 hearings, calendar call, and the June 21, 2010, trial. Thus, the court issued a warrant on March 15,
2 2010. (2:09-cr-78, Docs. #137 and #138).

3 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(3)(B), a defendant is absent “when his whereabouts are
4 unknown and, in addition, he is attempting to avoid apprehension or prosecution or his whereabouts
5 cannot be determined by due diligence.”

6 The court finds that defendant was absent as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(3) at least from
7 the date the warrant was issued until defendant’s subsequent arrest in Arizona on December 22,
8 2011. Defendant subsequently appeared in this court on January 19, 2012. (2:09-cr-78, Doc. #220).

9 Defendant’s Speedy Trial Act calculations do not account for 18 U.S.C. § 3161(k)(1).
10 Pursuant to this statute,

11 If the defendant is absent (as defined by subsection (h)(3)) on the day set for trial, and
12 the defendant’s subsequent appearance before the court on a bench warrant or other
13 process or surrender to the court occurs more than 21 days after the day set for trial,
14 the defendant shall be deemed to have first appeared before a judicial officer of the
15 court in which the information or indictment is pending . . . on the date of the
16 defendant’s subsequent appearance before the court.

17 18 U.S.C. § 3161(k)(1). “[W]hen the defendant is absent or unavailable at the date of his trial and
18 does not appear before the court within 21 days, § 3161(k)(1) resets the speedy trial clock to begin
19 running on the date of such appearance.” *United States v. Serrano*, 197 Fed. Appx. 906, 908-09
20 (11th Cir. 2006); *see also United States v. Ochoa-Calderon*, 2012 WL 1805074, at *2 (D. Neb.
21 2012) (stating that the “speedy trial clock does not start until defendant appears before a judge in the
22 [charging district]”).

23 Here, defendant was absent as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 3161(h)(3) on the date of his trial on
24 June 21, 2010, and did not appear before a judge in the charging district until January 19, 2012. This
25 time period far exceeds the 21-day limit specified in 18 U.S.C. § 3161(k)(1). Therefore, defendant’s
26 speedy trial clock was reset on January 19, 2012, the date of his subsequent appearance in this
27 district. 18 U.S.C. § 3161(k)(1). On February 22, 2012, the court filed an order to continue trial,
28

1 granting defendant's stipulation to continue and excluding time from March 13, 2012, until June 23,
2 2012. (2:09-cr-78, Doc. #230).

3 At most, there have been 54 non-excludable days from defendant's subsequent appearance
4 before this court on January 19, 2012, until the first trial setting on March 13, 2012. Accordingly,
5 the delay does not meet the criteria for dismissal due to a Speedy Trial Act violation. *See Medina*,
6 524 F.3d at 981; 18 U.S.C. § 3162(a)(2).

7 **3. Motion to dismiss for “failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted with
8 negative averment admissions” (doc. #38)**

9 Although the motion states that it is a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon
10 which relief can be granted, closer review of the motion reveals that it is a motion to dismiss for lack
11 of subject matter jurisdiction. (Doc. #38).

12 Defendant argues that, pursuant to 27 C.F.R. § 72.11, all federal crimes are commercial and
13 the instant charges are “merely victimless regulatory infractions.” (Doc. #38). This argument is not
14 meritorious. Section 72.11 provides definitions of terms used in provisions dealing with the
15 disposition of seized personal property – this section does not state that all federal crimes are
16 commercial. Section 72 “places no requirements upon the government in bringing criminal charges
17 against the defendant” *United States v. Smoove*, 2008 WL 2275568, at *2 n.1 (D. Kan. 2008);
18 *see also United States v. Hobbs*, 2012 WL 2426905, at *5 (E.D. Mo. 2012); *United States v.*
19 *Petersen*, 2009 WL 3062013, at *3 n.5 (D. Minn. 2009); *Jones v. United States*, 2008 WL 2901050,
20 at *2 (M.D. Fla. 2008).

21 The court previously consolidated the instant case with *United States v. Davis, et. al.*, case
22 number 2:09-cr-78-JCM-RJJ, for purposes of trial. (2:09-cr-78, Doc. #248). In that case, the court
23 already denied a similar motion to dismiss for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. (2:09-cr-78, Doc.
24 #174). In that order, the court found that it “has jurisdiction under 18 U.S.C. § 3231 over defendants
25 who violate United States laws such as Rice.” (2:09-cr-78, Doc. #174). Thus, this court has already
26 ruled on this issue. Further, the court notes that this motion should have been filed before the
27 February 18, 2012, pretrial motion deadline. Accordingly, defendant's motion is both meritless and
28

1 untimely.

2 **4. Motion to dismiss because 18 U.S.C. § 3231 is unconstitutional (doc. #40)**

3 Defendant's next motion to dismiss argues that public law 80-772 and 18 U.S.C. § 3231 were
4 enacted by less than a quorum of Congress and are, therefore, unconstitutional. Thus, defendant
5 asserts that this court lacks subject matter jurisdiction to prosecute defendant. (Doc. #40).

6 Every court to have considered such a claim has rejected it. For example, as recently as 2010,
7 the Third Circuit has affirmed that "Section 3231 was properly enacted and is binding." *Wolford v.*
8 *United States*, 362 Fed. Appx. 231, 232 (unpublished); *see also United States v. Mendez*, 2012 WL
9 1155712, at *4 (D. Nev. 2012); *United States v. Risquet*, 426 F. Supp. 2d 310, 311-12 (E.D. Pa.
10 2006). Further, this motion should have been filed before the February 18, 2012, pretrial motion
11 deadline. Accordingly, defendant's motion is both meritless and untimely.

12 **5. Motion "for dismissal, permanent injunction, publish and seal, clean and redact
13 records, issuance by US Treasury debit cards, federal concealed weapons permit" (doc.
14 #41).**

15 Defendant's last motion asks the court to issue six attached proposed orders. (Doc. #41).
16 The motion does not include points and authorities in support of the motion, but rather simply asks
17 the court "to issue the attached orders for the reasons stated in the orders . . ." (Doc. #41). Among
18 other forms of relief, the attached proposed orders would dismiss the indictment, grant defendant a
19 diplomatic immunity passport, order news outlets to publish a statement regarding defendant's arrest,
20 and order the United States Treasury to issue debit cards to defendant. (Doc. #41).

21 Pursuant to Local Rule of Criminal Practice 47-9, "The failure of a moving party to file points
22 and authorities in support of the motion shall constitute a consent to the denial of the motion."

23 Here, defendant has not filed points and authorities in support of the motion and has,
24 therefore, consented to denial of the motion. *See Local Rule of Criminal Practice 47-9*. Further,
25 similar to the other motions discussed in this order, the instant motion to dismiss is untimely because
26 it should have been filed prior to the February 18, 2012, pretrial motion deadline. Finally, the court
27 finds that the proposed orders are meritless and declines to issue them on the merits.

28

6. Documents submitted for *in camera* review at calendar call

The court declines to consider the documents submitted for *in camera* review at calendar call.

The court finds that these documents are improper *ex parte* communications. See Local Rule 7-6.

Further, these documents are immaterial to the proceedings now before the court.

Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that the report and recommendation of Magistrate Judge Johnston (doc. #31) be, and the same hereby are, AFFIRMED in their entirety.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss the pleadings and indictment issued by the government with prejudice for lack of standing and no real party in interest (doc. #27) be, and the same hereby is, DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss indictment due to discovery violations (doc. #25) be, and the same hereby is, DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss indictment due to Speedy Trial Act Violation (doc. #33) be, and the same hereby is, DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted (doc. #38) be, and the same hereby is, DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss because 18 U.S.C. § 3231 is unconstitutional (doc. #40) be, and the same hereby is, DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that defendant's motion to dismiss and attached proposed orders (doc. #41) be, and the same hereby are, DENIED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the court declines to consider the documents submitted by defendant for *in camera* review at calendar call. The court will maintain a copy of these documents.

DATED July 23, 2012.

James C. Mahan
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE